

*Georgia Congressman calls the flag a "symbol of our nation's strength, history, and heritage"; says the proposed amendment "is long overdue"*

**Washington, DC** - Along with a solid bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives, 12<sup>th</sup> District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) today voted in favor of a constitutional amendment that would ban the desecration of the American flag.

Following the vote, Barrow issued the following statement:

"Old Glory is much more than just a piece of cloth. It's a symbol of our nation's strength, history, and heritage - representing freedom and democracy throughout the world.

For well over 200 years, American men and women have given their lives to keep the flag flying and to keep our nation united.

It's our responsibility to honor their sacrifices by protecting the flag.

"If we have the right to protect national treasures like the Washington Monument and the Liberty Bell, then we ought to have the right to protect the American flag as well.

"This constitutional amendment is long overdue. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed resolutions calling on Congress to protect the flag from physical desecration. Today's vote marks the sixth consecutive time that the House of Representatives has passed this resolution by a two-third's majority."

House Joint Resolution 10, proposing an amendment to the Constitution authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the American flag, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 286 - 130. The bill now heads to the United States Senate for consideration.

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